

REMARKS

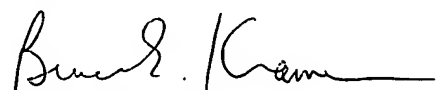
Method claim 24 has been amended to include all the limitations of product claim 43, thereby facilitating rejoinder of the non-elected method claims per MPEP 821.04(b). Claims 38 and 39 have been canceled in view of the amendment of claim 24. Claim 40 has been amended to change its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 38. Claim 42 has been amended to make an editorial change without changing the scope of the claimed invention.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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